

Hamas divided on unity government

by UPI

RAMALLAH, Gaza - There is division among the Palestinian Hamas party over concessions to Chairman Mahmoud Abbas to achieve a unity government. The pan-Arab daily Asharq Alawsat said one faction wanted to turn over control of the authority's institutions and bases in the Gaza Strip, in return for a renewal of the unity government and reinstating parliament, the Jerusalem Post reported. The newspaper said the proposal was made to Abbas on Tuesday but there was still reluctance among Hamas leadership to embrace it, which a source said was key to Abbas accepting it. Elsewhere, a Palestinian Authority source told the Post security and intelligence officials from three EU countries had been having secret talks with Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip in recent weeks. "There is growing awareness among the Europeans of the fact that Hamas can't be ignored as a major player in the Palestinian arena," the source said.

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